

Fair, much colder tonight and tomorrow; fresh northerly winds.

The Washington Times

YOU TALK TO ALL
The People Through
Times Want Advertisements.

NUMBER 3529.

WASHINGTON, MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 8, 1904.

PRICE ONE CENT.

LOSS MAY BE TWO HUNDRED MILLION

EUROPE EXPECTS FORCES TO GLASH AT ANY MOMENT

Japanese Minister in London Says State of War Exists.

RELATIONS BROKEN OFF

Baron de Rosen Says Farewell to the Diplomats in Tokyo.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—All news from the Far East this morning goes to show that Russia and Japan are on the verge of hostilities, and that an actual clash between the forces of the two nations may be expected.

The dilatory tactics adopted by Russia in the latest phases of the negotiations have at last worn out the patience of the Japanese, and without waiting for the reception of the Russian reply to their latest communication, the Mikado and his advisers have ordered diplomatic relations with Russia broken off, which is without doubt tantamount to a declaration of hostilities.

"But One Interpretation."

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister at London, asserts that a state of war exists. When shown the dispatch announcing the severing of diplomatic relations, he said:

"There is only one interpretation. It means the two countries are now in the state of war."

"We enter into the struggle recognizing it is brought about by the law of self-preservation for us. It seems true that my government has taken final action without waiting for Russia's reply. Russia's dilatoriness is fully to blame for this matter. During the past fortnight we have been daily pressing St. Petersburg for an answer, and have been daily met with the response that a note may be expected any time."

"Must Assume Initiative."

"While we have thus been kept waiting, Russia has been strengthening her position and moving her army to strategic positions along the Yalu River. We are unable to stand by and watch this hostile behavior, which is threatening to our existence. Nothing is left us but to take the matter in our own hands and technically assume a war initiative."

"As to the immediate cause belli, there is none. The whole world knows what we are fighting for."

"Keep Hands Off."

There are some of the most optimistic in semi-official circles who still cling to the thread of hope that actual hostilities will yet be averted by mediation. This is but the slightest kind of a hope, however, as Japan has very plainly intimated during the progress of the negotiations that she preferred to have all the powers keep their hands off and leave her to fight the matter out herself.

Farewell to Ministers.

TOKYO, Japan, Feb. 8.—The Austro-Hungarian minister will assume charge of Russian interest here. Baron de Rosen, the departing Russian ambassador, this morning bade farewell to the foreign ministers.

It was estimated today that the Japanese war bonds would bring in \$20,000,000.

The State Department is advised that Japanese Minister Kurina has left St. Petersburg.

STRONG JAPANESE FLEET SAILS TO CHERMULPO

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The Central News reports that a strong Japanese fleet has gone to Chermulpo, Korea, and that several Russian trading steamers have been seized.

In the house of commons today, replying to a question by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader, Home Secretary Acland-Hood said:

"We have been officially informed that diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan have been broken off, but as to the details I can add nothing to the press dispatches."

The "Pall Mall Gazette's" Paris correspondent asserts that France and England are perfectly agreed as to their line of conduct respecting the Russo-Japanese situation, and neither will intervene, but after a decisive engagement, both will offer their good offices as mediators.

WEATHER REPORT.

During the past twenty-four hours there have been general rains and snows from the Mississippi valley eastward and in the districts west of the Rocky Mountains. There were also light local snows in the Northwest.

The weather will be fair and much colder tonight in the Atlantic and east Gulf States and Ohio Valley, continuing cold tomorrow. In the lower lake region it will also continue cold with light snow.

TEMPERATURE.

12 noon..... 35
1 p. m..... 35
2 p. m..... 35

Sun sets today..... 5:23 p. m.
Sun rises tomorrow..... 6:59 a. m.

TIDE TABLE.

High tide today..... 1:42 a. m.
High tide tomorrow..... 2:30 a. m., 2:38 p. m.
Low tide tomorrow..... 8:40 a. m., 9:28 p. m.

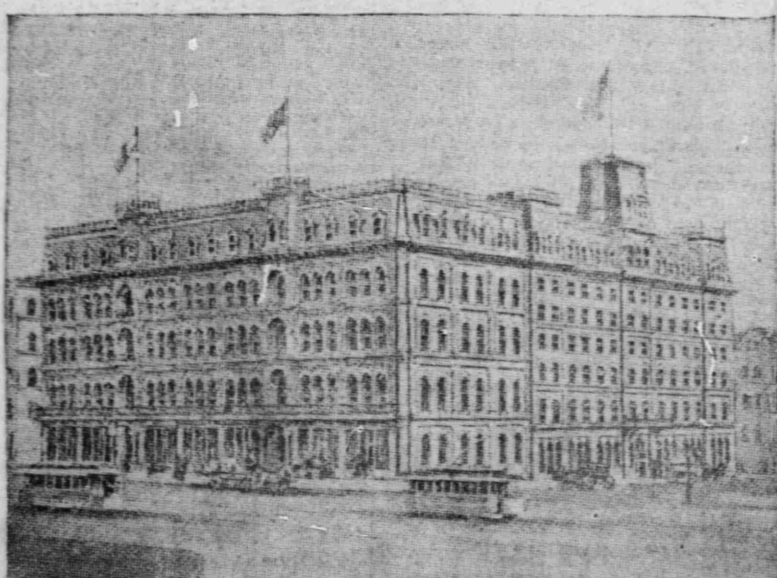
FOUR OF THE SPLENDID BUILDINGS DESTROYED



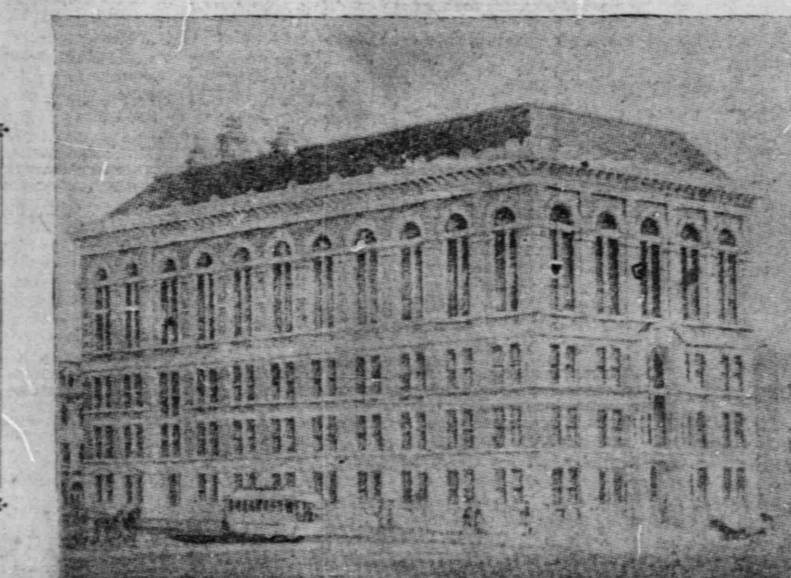
Merchants' National Bank Building, South and Water Streets.



Equitable Building, Calvert and Fayette Streets.



The Carrollton Hotel, Baltimore, Light and German Streets.



Baltimore Chamber of Commerce, Water and Holliday Streets.

"HANNA'S GENERAL CONDITION GOOD"

Temperature, 103; Pulse, 84; Respiration, 24.

FAMILY PHYSICIAN IS HERE

All Noise About Arlington Suppressed. Senator's Brother Arrives From Cleveland.

"Mr. Hanna's morning temperature was a little high, 103; his pulse was 84 and regular, and his respiration, 24."

"There is a little irritability of the stomach. His mind is quite clear. His general condition is good."

This bulletin was issued by Drs. Rixey, Osler, and Carter, the physicians who are attending Senator Hanna, at noon today.

Family Physician Arrives.

Dr. Edward P. Carter, of Cleveland, the Senator's family physician, arrived from Cleveland at 7:30 this morning.

Upon the whole, the Senator is weaker today than he has been at any time, but Elmer Dover, his private secretary, who has been in consultation with the physicians, says that this is to be expected, and that the disease is taking its regular course. The rise in temperature was also expected, and there will be an additional rise as the disease approaches its climax.

All Noise Barred.

On account of the noise of passing trains, which, in the Senator's nervous condition, has caused him repeatedly to wince, although he has made no complaint, Secretary Dover has requested that the street be ten-barked, and this will be done. The orchestra, which has been playing at the Arlington at meal times, has also been discontinued.

Medill McCormick, the Senator's son-in-law, left Washington for Chicago last night. M. M. Hanna, the Senator's brother, arrived last night. He was summoned, not because of the gravity of Mr. Hanna's condition, but to relieve Mrs. Hanna of the responsibility of looking after his business affairs.

Senators Alarmed.

In the Senate today the news from Senator Hanna's sickroom was of a most disquieting nature. His colleagues heard that he had passed a very bad night, and all expressed the deepest concern over his chances in the struggle with the disease.

Father John's Medicine Cures Colds and All Throat and Lung Troubles.—Adv.

Washington Will Aid Prostrate Baltimore

Commissioners Take Action by Way of Preparing to Render Any Assistance the Stricken City May Call For.

The District of Columbia has five steam fire engines, with their full complement of men, under direction of Fire Chief Belt and Fire Marshal Bieber, now assisting in fighting the flames in Baltimore.

With the last company, twenty-one men were sent over as a relief, making about eighty men absent from the local department.

Willing to Aid.

All three of the Commissioners have expressed sympathy for the fire-stricken city, and will do anything in their power to relieve conditions. Commissioner West stands ready to furnish as many police and detectives as may be spared without jeopardizing the peace of this community.

Mr. Macfarland says no further assistance can be given in the way of fire-fighting apparatus, without endangering the property in the District, but if there is anything else he can do either officially or personally, he will gladly respond.

To Visit Baltimore.

Both Commissioners Macfarland and West expect to go over to Baltimore this afternoon to personally supervise the work of the members of their respective departments who are now in that city.

Commissioner Macfarland consulted by telephone this morning a number of prominent citizens, members of the Washington Board of Trade and the Business Men's Association, whom he could reach quickly, as to what relief could be given, if desired, to the citizens of Baltimore, and was assured that Washington would act as generously as ever in contributing to any relief that the Commissioners might suggest.

Anxious to Respond.

Commissioner Macfarland brought the matter before the Commissioners, suggesting that, as president of the Board, he telegraph Mayor McLane, asking him what, if any, relief was desired from the citizens of the District, assuring him that now, as always, they would generously respond as soon as they knew what was wanted. The Commissioners thereupon authorized the sending of the following telegram:

"Hon. Robert M. McLane, Mayor of Baltimore:

"What, if any, relief assistance do the citizens of Baltimore need from the citizens of the District of Columbia? The people of the National Capital, deeply sympathetic and always generous, will gladly respond. Is there anything more that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia can do to help you?"

"HENRY B. F. MACFARLAND, President Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia."

If Mayor McLane asks for material

PROMPT ACTION IN SENDING AID

Major Sylvester Offered Assistance Before Request.

THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS

Views of Eyewitnesses Who Saw Phases of the Storm of Flames.

Major Richard Sylvester, since receiving the first information of the serious character of the fire, has spent but few moments in sleep. He early anticipated the need for aid, and before Baltimore authorities realized the dire peril which confronted their city, Washington's Superintendent of Police had proffered assistance.

After an all-night siege, and having been in constant touch over the telephone with headquarters, Major Sylvester was at his desk early this morning.

A Serious Situation.

"The gravity of the situation," said Major Sylvester, "cannot be overestimated. Even with the meager aid at hand, it is evident the property loss to our sister city will, in extent, be second only to the monster conflagration in Chicago in 1871. Up to date the great Boston fire of 1872, in which sixty-five acres of the business district were laid waste, at a loss of \$80,000,000, has ranked second to the Chicago fire."

As to his action in promptly moving to the relief of the fire-swept city, Major Sylvester said:

"I have placed at the disposal of Marshal Farnam one-half of the reserve force of the District. I took occasion to offer assistance as soon as I heard of the serious nature of the fire. I at once dispatched four detectives, as The Times is already aware. I sent thirty men at 3 o'clock this morning."

Instructed to Report.

"Captain Pearson, who accompanied the men, was instructed to ascertain from Marshal Farnam what, if any, further help he needed. I am assured that the situation does not call for any further draft on our force."

Sidney Bieber, Fire Marshal of the District, who accompanied the force of local firemen to Baltimore, arrived in Washington at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon and reported immediately to Commissioner Macfarland. He will return to Baltimore at 3 o'clock.

He estimates the loss so far at \$100,000,000. He says the fire will burn for two days or possibly three days.

"The police service is excellent, and ruins are being adequately guarded from any possible looting."

"According to the stories told by several persons who are in a position to know the inadequacy of water pressure is largely responsible for the tremendous disaster," said Detective Horne.

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

CHICAGO FIRE RECORD BROKEN

Business, Financial, and Water Front Sections of Baltimore Prey to Flames.

Secretary Taft Orders Engineers to Stricken City to Aid in Demolishing Walls—Metropolis Now Under Martial Law.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 8.—2:30 P. M.—The water front is now a seething furnace; great mills, steamship wharves, cotton, and merchandise warehouses offering a mighty feast for the banquet of flames.

With the water front, goes the shipping interest of the seaport, making complete the destruction of Baltimore's business district.

The fire is under control only in the sense that unless the wind changes the flames cannot cross the falls, the river bounding on the north.

TAFT SENDS ENGINEERS OVER TO BALTIMORE.

On a telephone request from the Mayor of Baltimore, Secretary of War Taft this afternoon sent to the devastated city Major Edward Burr, Capt. C. E. Gillette, and Capt. Henry Newcomer, all of the Engineer Corps, accompanied by a company of engineers from Washington barracks.

They are to have charge of the pulling down of dangerous walls, and otherwise render assistance and advice to the authorities.

General Corbin, commanding the Department of the East at New York, has been ordered to send two regiments of infantry in readiness to be sent to Baltimore for the purpose of preserving order.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 8.—Fire has eaten out the business heart of Baltimore and is still licking up the labors of years with its thousands of devouring tongues.

The burned district covers everything south of Fayette Street to Light, thence north to Lexington, thence west to Liberty, thence south to Hopkins Place, thence south to Pratt Street, thence east to Bowley's Wharf and Pratt Street, thence in a direct line to a point on West Falls Avenue, 500 feet north of Block Street. The Geodetic Survey, giving out this statement of the area at 11 o'clock, says it includes 140 acres.

MILES OF PROPERTY.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon about a square mile of the most valuable commercial property in the city lay prone, a smoking and white-hot graveyard of millions. The property loss alone is so great that only the roughest estimates can be made. It has been placed at not lower than \$200,000,000 and as high as \$250,000,000.

What was a spark at 11 o'clock yesterday is now, at the hour of writing, a whirlwind of awful flame; a simoom of fire, reaching first in this direction and then in that, till it has already crumpled with its awful power seventy-two city blocks, containing hundreds of business houses, wiped out some of the largest wholesale and retail enterprises in the Middle South, killed one and injured at least eighty firemen, and drove a whole city to stand guard over its property and to be prepared to run with it at a minutes' notice.

SHIPPING A LOSS.

Shipping was forced into the stream, and its cargoes left to be consumed on the docks. Buildings were dynamited, all too late, and with the awful explosions from this cause, with the thousands of lesser ones as the flames reached gasoline tanks and explosive chemicals, with the crashing of falling walls and the gating-like cracking of the furnaces of flame, one seemed to be among the awful horror of war, and as if to make this horror the more impressive the city was soon placed under military law and the militia and the regulars were ordered out to protect property, as well as the thousands who in their curiosity were determined not to be driven from the dangerous vantage points which they had secured.

END HARD TO TELL.

What the end will be it is impossible at this hour to say. The wind is blowing a gale. It lifts firebrands from the ruins and sets them abroad seeking new prey.

Fire, the good servant, has become the awful master, and every report that man is again supreme and the fire under control is soon denied by the recurring bulletins that tell of its extension into a new street.

Business men are watching the ashes of their fortunes. Some of them have covered their eyes with their hands as they stood in the streets and waited as their buildings fell into ruin almost in a moment. In less time than it has taken them to unlock their doors in the morning they have looked and realized that they were poor again—where where they started.

Over all there rests that grim silence of a people who have come to that state of feeling where protest is useless, where men stand still and hardly dare to think, where they can wait only for the end and can find nothing that can avert the catastrophe of the end. They are not even able to aid in fighting the flames, and a whole city is still looking on, depressed, discouraged, and in utter despair, moving only as they are forced back by the flames, the police, the militia, and the regulars.

BUSINESS PARALYZED.

Every business must be paralyzed for weeks and months. The city is without newspapers, every one of them having been consumed or dynamited. Nearly all electrical communication, by telegraph and telephone, is out. The Associated Press offices are gone, and news can reach here only by train, with an occasional message via New York.

This afternoon the War Department sent a company of army engineers to assist in the work of dynamiting the tottering walls and what new buildings that must come down to stay the conflagration.

The water supply has proven all too inadequate to cope with the mighty force of such a fire, and has been lowered greatly by the drafts upon it by a hundred fire engines. At times it seemed only to lend fuel to the flames.

Governor W. Field, urged on by the needs of the stricken business

(Continued on Fourth Page.)